

University of Central Oklahoma
College of Liberal Arts
Department of Modern Languages
GRK 1113: Introduction to Biblical Greek (CRN 13730)
MWF 10:00AM-10:50AM, Fall 2018
Liberal Arts Rm. 215

Instructor: Dr. Jerry Green

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Office: Liberal Arts 203E (405.974.5612)

Office Hours: M,T,W 2-4:00 PM

Course Description:

“This course is an introduction to the pronunciation, grammar, reading, and composition of Biblical Greek.”

The New Testament was originally written in a Greek dialect called *Koine* (i.e. ‘common’ Greek). The same Greek dialect was used to translate a certain form of the Old Testament in a collection called the Septuagint. It was also the dialect of Greek throughout the Mediterranean from around 350 BCE onward, when Alexander the Great spread Greek language and culture throughout his short-lived empire. It persisted as a common language for diverse ethnic groups to speak to each other through the Roman and Byzantine period, and used in important treatises in literature, philosophy, and early science. In this class, you will begin to learn the basics of this Greek dialect.

This course is part of a one-year sequence in the basic grammatical categories of Koine Greek. Any language takes a long time to master, especially a classical language like Greek which is read but rarely spoken. You certainly won’t be ‘fluent’ by the end of one class. But I will help you learn the tools to continue reading Greek on your own with the use of dictionaries and online resources, whether you want to read the New Testament or Plato or Plutarch or Josephus.

Over the course of the semester you will:

- Learn to recognize and replicate the letters and sounds of the Koine Greek dialect
- Learn the most important and most frequent Koine Greek vocabulary
- Learn the basics of Greek noun, adjective, and pronoun declension systems
- Learn the basics of Greek verb conjugation for present, future, and past active tenses
- Learn the basics of Greek syntax for simple sentences, including preposition and pronoun use

In addition, you will develop:

- A more sophisticated grasp of linguistic concepts, independent of a specific language
- A more thorough understanding of English syntax and semantics
- A broader English vocabulary and awareness of the etymology of English terminology
- An awareness of the ambiguity and complexity of natural language and translations
- An appreciation of the original language of a few highly influential religious texts

Two things worth noting:

- 1) This class is about ancient Greek, not modern ‘Demotic’ Greek (that’s a different dialect),
- 2) This is not a theology class: our focus will be on the language of the NT, not so much on the content (though of course the former can’t help but teach you a little about the latter).

Prerequisites: None

Transformational Learning Outcomes:

The University of Central Oklahoma is a learning-centered organization committed to Transformative education through active engagement in the teaching-learning interchange, scholarly and creative pursuits, leadership, global competency, healthy lifestyles, and service to others. Transformative learning goals (the “Central Six”) have been identified as: *Discipline Knowledge*, *Leadership*, *Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities*, *Service Learning and Civic Engagement*, *Global and Cultural Competencies*, and *Health and Wellness*. This course addresses four of the University’s transformative learning goals:

Discipline Knowledge, by developing competency in the *Koine* Greek dialect

Global and Cultural Competencies, by engaging with the language and texts of another culture

Course Materials

There are two required books for this course, available at the UCO bookstore in the Nigh University Center:

Black, David Alan (1998) *It’s Still Greek to Me*. Baker Academic. ISBN: 0801021812

Mueller, Walter (1972) *Grammatical Aids to Students of New Testament Greek*. Em. B. Eerdmans Publishing. ISBN: 0802814476

You will also need to purchase a course pack, available at [R.K Black Office](#), located at Nigh University Center Rm. 146. This is a **required text** for class. Most of your work will come out of this course pack: the other two required books are supplemental materials to help you study.

There are two more books that are **optional** (they’re not at the bookstore, but can be found online). You only need these if you want to push yourself beyond what we cover in class:

Trenchard, Warren (2003) *A Concise Dictionary of New Testament Greek*. Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 0521521114

Goodrich & Lukaszewski (2015). *A Reader’s Greek New Testament*. Zondervan. ISBN: 0310516803

In addition, you will need quite a few index cards for vocabulary memorization and drills.

Assignments

Reading

Languages, by their very nature, cannot be learned in the 150 minutes we spend in class every week. You will be expected to do a significant amount of reading and review on your own outside of class. We will range from one-half to two chapters of material per class session. You must read the material before class carefully and thoroughly more than once. If you fall behind, it is incredibly difficult to catch back up, so consistent, sustained study and review is a must.

Exercises

Each Lesson has an accompanying set of Exercises to help you learn grammar, morphology and/or vocabulary. These will be graded on a Pass/Half-Credit/Fail basis. They must be turned in by 5:00 PM on the day we cover that Lesson.

Practice Passages

There will be a short reading passage (70-150 words) every few Lessons to help you synthesize the material from across Lessons and also practice the skills of reading full passages in Greek. They will have a few grammar and comprehension questions to help you develop these skills. Your work on each Passage must be turned in the day before the Exam for that Passage’s unit.

Exams

We will have four exams, every three to four weeks. These exams will focus on the material from the relevant unit of class, though language exams are by their nature cumulative. The final exam will take place Friday, Dec 14th from 9:00AM-10:50AM. It will be a fully cumulative exam, covering any material from any point throughout the course.

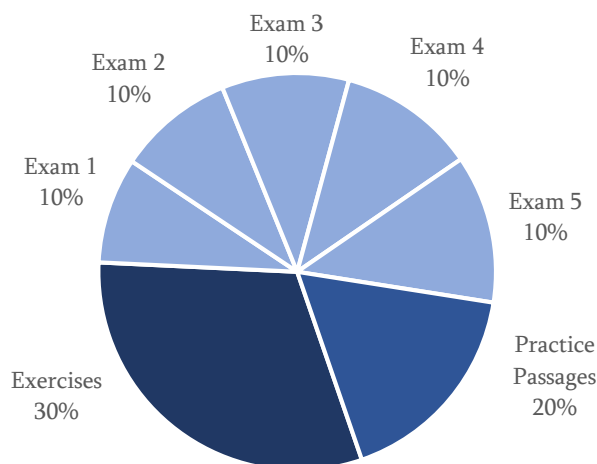
Late Work & Make-Ups

Lessons and Practice Passages will be completed outside of class. Deadlines are somewhat flexible so that you can work on them in a way that suits your study style (all at once over the weekend, finish before class, do after class to review, etc). But that flexibility comes with a cost: you have plenty of time to do assignments in advance, so if you don't turn them in by the relevant deadline, they won't be accepted (barring unforeseen emergencies, in which case contact me ASAP to make arrangements).

Exams and Final will also be administered in class. If you arrive in class late, you forfeit whatever time you missed, but you may complete as much of the exam as you are able to in the remaining time.

If you miss an exam because of an absence that satisfies the University's excused absence policy (see below), you must make alternative arrangements with me as soon as possible. *It is your responsibility to contact me to make alternative arrangements; the default for a missed exam is a zero.* If you miss an exam because of an unexcused absence, I reserve the right to give you a zero for that assignment. You should contact me *immediately* if you miss an exam for any reason.

Grades



Grade Scale:

100.0-90.0	= A
89.9-80.0	= B
79.9-70.0	= C
69.9-60.0	= D
59.9 - 0.0	= F

Exercises: Out-of-class homework is the biggest individual category in your grade, because in a language class most of your learning will take place outside the classroom. There will be 36 Exercises total, one of each Lesson, each worth 1 point. However, you can earn a maximum of 30 points in this category. This means you can either (a) skip a few Lessons, or (b) get less-than-full credit on some Lessons but do more than 30 to make up the points. This category will remain at 30 points even if we don't cover all 36 Lessons in the class.

Practice Passages: Each Practice Passage will be worth 2 points, 1 for answering the accompanying questions and 1 for giving a translation of the passage. There will be more than 10 Practice Passages, but as with Exercises, there is a cap on possible points for this category. Again, you may either skip some or do more of them to make up for assignments you didn't get 100% on.

Exams: Exams will account for 50% of your total grade. Each exam is worth 10 points = 10% x 5.

Rounding: Letter grade cut-offs are at 90.0, 80.0, etc. But I may round up in exceptional cases, if (i) I feel you've done better or worked harder than your score suggests, and (ii) you do not have excessive absences or missing assignments. This is a courtesy, not an entitlement.

Appeals: I am more than happy to talk to you about lower-than-expected grades, and to regrade your assignment if merited (but note the risk that the regraded results could be lower). However, I consider asking for a grade increase for non-performance reasons (e.g. to keep a scholarship or prevent your parents from being mad) to be academic misconduct, because you are asking for me to give you a grade you did not earn. So don't do that.

Excused Absences

The exception to the Late/Make-Up policy listed above is excused absences. The University considers absences for the following reasons excused:

- travel considered part of the instructional program of the university
- invited participation in activities directly and officially sponsored by the university
- jury duty or military obligations
- serious illness, medical condition, pregnant and parenting students' rights (as outlined in Title IX), accident, or injury
- death or serious illness in immediate family
- religious observances. *Note: a list of religious observances must be submitted to the instructor the **first two weeks** of the semester of which the observance will be held.*

Reasonable Accommodations Policy

Any student who needs extra time or resources to do their best work due to a physical, cognitive or emotional condition may qualify for academic accommodations. You should consult Disability Support Services for further information: <http://sites.uco.edu/student-affairs/dss/>

The University of Central Oklahoma complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must make their requests by contacting Disability Support Services, at (405) 974-2516 (V/TTY). The DSS Office is located in the Nigh University Center, Room 305. Students should also notify the instructor of special accommodation needs as soon as possible.

A bit of advice: *do not let shyness or embarrassment or pride stop you from getting the services you deserve.* I've seen too many students allow their grades to suffer because they didn't speak up to claim the accommodations they were entitled to. I will do everything I can to make sure that your accommodations stay between you, me, and DSS.

Tech Policy

Computers, tablets, e-readers, etc., will not be allowed during class time (unless you have an accommodation from DSS). I know it sounds paternalistic (it is) and lame (it isn't), but computers in class do [much more harm than good](#).

Three main reasons for this policy:

- 1) You might think you can multi-task well. [You are almost certainly incorrect](#). And even if you were miraculously among the 2% of good multi-taskers, you would still distract others.
- 2) Electronic texts are much [less effective](#) than paper for the kind of reading we'll be doing.
- 3) [It is well-documented that taking](#) notes by hand is much more effective than typing. If you want a digital version of your notes, scan them or, better, type them out after class.

Academic Honesty

You are expected to consult and understand the [University's Academic Dishonesty Policy](#); participation in this class constitutes an agreement to follow this policy. My own policy is this: it is always better to ask for help than to cheat. Cheating takes more work, with worse results, than simply attempting the assignment. If you are confused at any point about whether something constitutes academic dishonesty, please ask: I am here to help. However, if you are caught engaging in academic misconduct, I will pursue whatever maximum penalties the University may apply.

Disabilities & Title IX

The University of Central Oklahoma complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must make their requests by contacting Disability Support Services, at (405) 974-2516. The DSS Office is located in the Nigh University Center, Room 305. Students should also notify the instructor of special accommodation needs as soon as possible. Per Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, pregnant and parenting students may request adjustments by contacting the Title IX Coordinator, at (405) 974-3377 or TitleIX@uco.edu. The Title IX Office is located in the Lillard Administration Building, Room 114D. For more information about your options, including reporting and confidential resources, please visit: <http://www.uco.edu/central/title-ix/index.asp>.

Physical and Mental Health

College can be a very stressful time, emotionally, socially, and academically. You don't have to face these stresses alone. There are numerous resources on campus to help, including:

<http://sites.uco.edu/student-affairs/scc/>

<http://sites.uco.edu/wellness/shc/>

Student Information Sheet

More important info here: <http://sites.uco.edu/academic-affairs/files/aa-forms/StudentInfoSheet.pdf>

Schedule (Scheduled to change)

	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Lessons</i>	<i>Exam</i>
Week 1:	Alphabet, Accents & Punctuation	1-3	
Week 2:	First Declension Nouns	4-7	
Week 3:	Athematic Verbs	7-8	
Week 4:	(cont)	9	Exam 1: Friday, 9.14
Week 5:	Thematic verbs (regular)	10-12	
Week 6:	Second Declension	13-15	
Week 7:	Thematic verbs (contract)	16	Exam 2: Wed., 10.05
Week 8:	Third Declension	17-19	
Week 9:	Pronouns	20-21	
Week 10:	Present Middle/Passive	22-23	Exam 3: Mon, 10.29
Week 11:	Future Active	24-25	
Week 12:	(cont)	26-28	
Week 13:	Adjectives	29-30	Exam 4: Mon, 11.19
Week 14:	Imperfect	31-33	
Week 15:	Aorist	34-26	

Final Exam: Friday, 12.14